



F. No 2(119)/2022-Chair(NCHR)
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
5th Floor Evacuee Trust Complex, F-5/1,
Agha Khan Road, Islamabad.



Islamabad, the 29th July, 2022

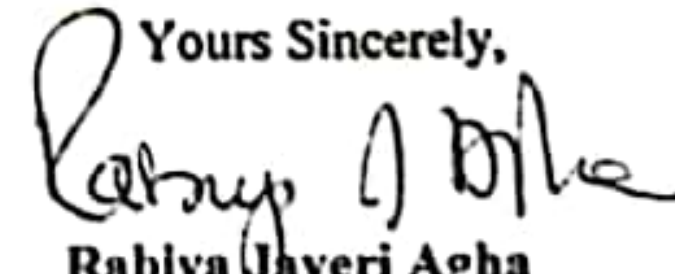
Subject: Harassment of Women Journalists

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is deeply concerned about the rising incidences of harassment of women journalists in Pakistan.

2. On August 12th 2020, over 150 women journalists across the country issued a Joint Statement regarding attacks on women in media in Pakistan.¹ On August 18th, 2020, women journalists were invited to raise their concerns at the National Assembly meeting of the Standing Committee on Human Rights. At this meeting, women journalists spoke about the sustained attacks on their credibility, character, and integrity and submitted evidence to the committee to corroborate their claims. They also spoke about how this targeted harassment undermines public trust in journalism and is against the basic tenets of democracy. They then demanded that the Government hold culprits accountable and take action against them. The Ministry of Human Rights took up the task of ending the targeted harassment of women journalists.

3. On August 18th, 2020, women journalists gave further recommendations to the Standing Committee on Human Rights and the Ministry of Human Rights, seeking responses on what steps had been taken to curb the targeted harassment of journalists. However, two years later, they have not yet received any response from the Government.

4. The NCHR would like to receive an update on the status of the steps the Ministry of Human Rights has taken to protect women journalists.

Yours Sincerely,

Rabiya Javeri Agha
Chairperson (NCHR)

The Secretary,
Ministry of Human Rights,
Government of Pakistan,
Islamabad.

Copy for information to:

- The Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

¹ Joint Statement: Attacks on Women in Media in Pakistan.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DD8BQ53noKO6zIly-gysGnl7jeKT4ride4uYtQsNNRYoc/edit>